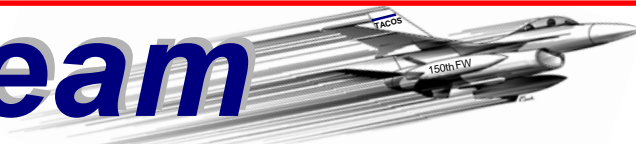


Jet Stream



News for the Enchilada Air Force

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ANG Photo

(Left to right) SSgt. Mike Gutierrez, TSgt. Joseph Muller, SrA Kenneth Florres, 150th Security Forces Squadron, serve jointly with active duty security forces in protecting an air base in Kuwait.

150th FW helps prepare country for future wars

1Lt Bruce R. Hill, Jr.
Public Affairs, 150th FW

The New Mexico Air National Guard "TACOS", the Air National Guard's only fighter unit with a branch primarily dedicated to the test support of major defense systems, is helping set the stage for future military engagements.

Defense Systems Evaluation, (DSE), a mission belonging to the 150th Fighter Wing, located at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., performs year-round test support to further develop the nation's current and emerging defense systems.

"DSE is the only test support program of it's kind, and has assisted in the development of many Army's defense systems, such as the Patriot and Avenger," said Col. William R. Robinson, vice wing commander for the 150th FW. "If not for DSE, some of these capabilities could possibly not be available to our combat forces today."

"DSE provides test support for both the research and development (R&D) test and operational test (OT) communities," said Robinson. "For R&D, the White Sands Missile Range (WSMR, located in Southern New Mexico) is where most tests are conducted for Army air defense systems development."

DSE aircraft fly a variety of profiles to accomplish these tasks, including the use of jamming pods, deploying chaff and/or flares, and launching or towing aerial targets, said Robinson. Once these systems are sent to the Army for OT, the DSE branch gets involved in more dynamic field testing of the systems to include using flight tactics dictated by current threat analysis agencies. This support provides the eventual user a realistic evaluation of the systems in situations more applicable to what they anticipate in actual combat.

"The 150th is the test unit for all air missile defense testing and training activities," said Stephen Krasovetz, senior intelligence officer, U.S. Army Air Defense School Directorate for Combat Development. DSE is critical to the success of all air/missile defense branch systems over a 35-year span." The 150th Fighter Wing is the unit of choice, primarily due to the flying unit's willingness, availability, and ability to assimilate various missile systems.

The TACOS participated in every major initial operational test and evaluation since the 1970's, leading to tremendous advancements of missile defense systems like Patriot, which now boasts a longer range and improved radar in order to counter Theatre Ballistic Missiles (TBM),

Continued on page 11, see DSE

150 FW Mission: *The New Mexico Air National Guard provides unsurpassed aerospace combat capability and combat support forces to meet any contingency in the world.*